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A Mystery About Ray Is Cleared Up—

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Oct. 24—Information supplied for a magazine article by James Earl Ray, who is accused of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has apparently helped the Federal Bureau of Investigation to trace Ray's whereabouts during two months of last year.

Ten days after he escaped from the Missouri State Prison in April, 1967, Ray went to work for a restaurant in Winnetka, in suburban Chicago, and stayed there for two months.

Early last August, Ray supplied this information to William Bradford Huie, the Hartsell, Ala., author who has a contract to write Ray's life story.

Until Mr. Huie went to Winnetka to interview the owners of the Indian Trail restaurant, where Ray had worked in May and June of 1967, the F.B.I. had apparently been unable to trace the murder suspect's movements although the F.B.I. had said it had 3,014 agents working on the case.

Mrs. Harvey Clingeman, who with her husband owns the family-style restaurant in Winnetka, said that Mr. Huie had talked to her and her husband in early August of this year.

Until that time, she said, they had no idea that the dishwasher and vegetable peeler they knew as John L. Ryan, was James Earl Ray.

After talking to Mr. Huie, Mrs. Clingeman said that she and her husband agreed to keep the discussion with Mr. Huie confidential. "Mr. Huie was spending so much money on it," she said.

Mr. Huie has said that he made a down payment of $25,000 to Ray for his life story. The money is being used as a defense fund.

Although the restaurant owners agreed to keep the discussion confidential, Mrs. Clingeman said that she and her husband felt that they should "tell our local police about it."

Sometime later, F.B.I. agents came to talk to them, she said, and they took with them the canceled paychecks for the eight weeks that Ray had worked at the restaurant. The F.B.I. agents came to see her and her husband in late August, Mrs. Clingeman said.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray was highly regarded as an employe, that he was neat, sociable and was a good worker. She said it became obvious after a few days that he could handle a better job than dishwashing and that she made him a "food server," and raised his pay from $103 a week to $117.50 a week.

As a food server, his duties included peeling vegetables and helping fill orders from a steam table.

The Indian Trail restaurant, operated by the Clingemans for 35 years, specializes in "plain home-cooked food" and does a volume business.

No Racial Friction

Working with Ray in the kitchen of the restaurant were 27 Negroes and four Filipinos, said Mrs. Clingeman, and there was never any friction between Ray and them.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray had several telephone calls during June, 1967, while he worked in the restaurant and that a man came to the restaurant to see him in late June.

He quit on June 24 and in a telephone call later told Mrs. Clingeman that he had been offered a job on a boat.

Months later, while he was using the alias Eric Starvo Galt, Ray told several landlords that he had worked as a ship hand.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray had a Social Security number and that it apparently was a valid one since there was no communication from the Social Security Administration about